

CLAIMS

✓ A  
1. A ~~purified~~ *recombinant* polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement of said polynucleotide.

5 2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. ~~An antisense molecule~~ *A recombinant polynucleotide* comprising the complement of the polynucleotide of Claim 2 or a portion thereof.

*sub B2*  
4. ~~A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antisense molecule of Claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.~~

*A*  
5. A ~~diagnostic composition~~ *probe* comprising an oligomer *specific to* of the polynucleotide of Claim 2.

*sub B3*  
6. A diagnostic test for a condition associated with altered VR-L expression comprising the steps of:

- 15 a) providing a biological sample;
- b) combining the biological sample and the diagnostic composition of Claim 5;
- c) allowing hybridisation to occur between the biological sample and the diagnostic composition under suitable conditions;
- 20 d) measuring the amount of hybridisation to obtain a sample value; and
- e) comparing the sample value with standard values to determine whether *vr-l* expression is altered.

7. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1.

25 8. A host cell transformed with the expression vector of Claim 7.

9. A method of producing a polypeptide, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) culturing the host cell of Claim 8 under conditions suitable for the expression of the polypeptide; and

- b) recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.
10. A purified polypeptide (VR-L) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- ~~11. A diagnostic composition comprising the polypeptide of Claim 10 or a portion thereof.~~
12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of Claim 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
13. An antibody specific for the purified polypeptide of Claim 9, or for a portion of that polypeptide.
- ~~14. A diagnostic composition comprising the antibody of Claim 13.~~
15. A diagnostic test for a condition associated with altered VR-L expression comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a biological sample;
  - b) combining the biological sample and the antibody of Claim 13 under conditions suitable for complex formation;
  - c) measuring the amount of complex formation between VR-L and the antibody to obtain a sample amount; and
  - d) comparing the amount of complex formation in the sample with standard amounts of complex formation, wherein a variation between sample amount and standard amounts of complex formation establishes the presence of the condition.
16. A method of screening a plurality of compounds for specific binding affinity with the polypeptide of Claim 10 or any portion thereof comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a plurality of compounds;
  - b) combining VR-L with each of a plurality of compounds for a time sufficient to allow binding under suitable conditions; and
  - c) detecting binding of VR-L to each of the plurality of compounds, thereby identifying the compounds which specifically bind VR-L.

~~17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 16 and  
a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.~~